

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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O 230830Z JUL 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6026

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1369

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EXDIS

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E.O. 11652 XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, AS, CB, CH, US

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA-CAMBODIA RELATIONS AND FRASER'S WASHINGTON VISIT

ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT' GUIDANCE ASAP, WHICH WE
CAN SHARE WITH AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, ON USG ATTITUDE TOWARD
ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS NEXT MONTH BETWEEN
AUSTRALIA AND CAMBODIA.

1. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY JULY 22 ADVISED US IN CONFIDENCE THAT
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL BETWEEN AUSTRALIA
AND CAMBODIA ("DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA") WILL BE ESTABLISHED
AND ANNOUNCED ON AUGUST 6 OF GOA AGREES TO A CAMBODIAN PROPOSAL
MADE HERE JULY 20. EMBASSY DOUBTS GOA WILL HAVE REACHED
DECISION BEFORE PRI MIN FRASER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND
IS CONSIDERING RECOMMENDATION ON WHETHER FRASER SHOULD OR SHOULD
NOT RAISE THIS MATTER DURING HIS VISIT. IN THAT CONNECTION,
EMBASSY ASKED INFORMALLY WHAT KIND OF REACTION WE THOUGHT
FRASER WOULD GET IF HE WERE TO RAISE IT.

2. USLO POLCOUNS, TO WHOM ABOVE QUESTION WAS PUT, STATED
PERSONAL ASSUMPTION THAT USG WAS TAKING A NEUTRAL STANCE
TOWARD WHAT OTHER GOVERNMENTS DECIDED ABOUT THEIR RELATIONS
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WITH CAMBODIA. BUT HE PROMISED TO TRY TO GIVE THE EMBASSY

BY MONDAY, JULY 26, SOME PROJECTION OF HOW US WOULD BE LIKELY
TO REACT -- I.E. FAVORABLY, UNFAVORABLY OR HOWEVER.

3. EMBASSY PROVIDED FOLLOWING BACKGROUND:

-- UNDER WHITLAM GOVERNMENT THERE HAD BEEN AUSTRALIAN
INITIATIVES IN PEKING TO LEARN CAMBODIAN VIEWS ON
ESTABLISHING RELATIONS. THE CAMBODIANS HAD BEEN UNRESPONSIVE.

-SOON AFTER FRASER GOVERNMENT TOOK OFFICE, EMBASSY WAS
AUTHORIZED TO REMIND CAMBODIANS THAT THEY HAD NOT REPLIED
TO AUSTRALIAN INQUIRIES. CAMBODIANS REMAINED UNRESPONSIVE.

--BEFORE FRASER'S VISIT TO PEKING, AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR
FITZGERALD MENTIONED TO PRC FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO THAT PRI MIN WOULD
PROBABLY BE INTERESTED IN CHINA'S VIEWS ON CAMBODIA AND ON
AUSTRALIAN-CAMBODIAN RELATIONS.

--IN COURSE OF THE FRASER VISIT CHIAO, IN TURN, DURING COUNTER-
PART TALKS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PEACOCK, INACCURATELY
QUOTED FITZGERALD TO THE EFFECT THAT AUSTRALIA WANTED TO
ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH CAMBODIA.

--THERE WERE NO FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS UNTIL JULY 20, WHEN
CAMBODIAN CHARGE CAME TO AUSTRALIANS WITH A DRAFT
COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS AT
AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL STARTING FROM AUGUST 6, ON BASIS OF
FIVE PRINCIPLES (SPELLED OUT) OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE. THERE
WAS SOME TENTATIVE DISCUSSION OF SUCH MATTERS AS DUAL
ACCREDITATION, PRESUMABLY OF AMBASSADORS RESIDENT IN
PEKING.

4. NOTE: NEITHER AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY NOR USLO AWARE OF WHAT CONTACTS
,

IF ANY, MAY HAVE ALREADY TAKEN PLACE ON THIS SUBJECT BETWEEN
WASHINGTON AND EITHER WHITLAM OR FRASER GOVERNMENT. AT
ANY RATE INFORMAL AUSTRALIAN APPROACH HERE SHOULD BE CLOSELY
HELD WITHIN USG.
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